

POISONED WIFE POISONING.
THE PRISONER DISCHARGED.
Berkenswell, Joseph Conrad, 43, a
23, Sidmouth-street, St. Pancras,
charged on remand, with feloniously
as Conrad, with intent to murder her.
swile, who prosecuted, said that since
oner was last before the court the
y had consulted with Dr. Stevenson,
s Hospital, an eminent authority
of poisonings, and it was found that
there were circumstances of suspi-
the evidence was not sufficient to
Conrad being detained in custody
neger. He asked that the prisoner
be discharged.—Mr. Horace Smith
ash to withdraw from the prosecution.
ewie: Yes.—Mr. Wilson said as this
obtained great publicity, a very
charge having been made against the
r, he wished to say on Conrad's behalf
e accused had always lived on the
ectionate terms with his wife. While
was in prison his wife wrote him
of the most affectionate character,
ing her certainty of his innocence. The
y's arsenic purchased by the prisoner
ray's London chemist's in 1893 was
accounted for. Mrs. Conrad was well
that the arsenic was purchased for the
ction of rats and mice in their shop-
ated that the poison was mixed in two
of meal, but as she objected to the
s being used for the purpose the
was thrown on the floor. Conrad
ndered every assistance to the police
e had been in custody.—Prisoner was
discharged.

THE STOCKWELL MURDER.
COMMITTEE FOR TRIAL.
the Lambeth Police Court, Thomas
rt Smith, 59, described as a painter, of
Stockwell Cottages, Stockwell Green,
charged on remand, before Mr. Hopkins,
the murder of his wife, Amelia Stewart,
s Lewis prosecuted on behalf of the
ury, and Mr. Bernard Wilson, solicitor,
aded. The case has been reported.—
being called upon to plead, the prisoner
d, "Not guilty, your worship."—Mr.
ins thereupon committed the prisoner
ial at the Central Criminal Court.

HEALTHFUL—COMFORTING.
E P P S'S
BREAKFAST-SUPPER
C O C O A
NEEDS ONLY BOILING WATER OR MILK.

UNIVERS, TOURISTS, MILITAIR, TRAVELLERS
Very Useful and interesting to Everybody.
NEW PEDOMETER-COMPASS (Patent),
CATER'S PATENT, with the greatest precision, the
distance which THE PRIDEVILLAS has returned in Paris
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case, for free. Order six pence to per cent. discount.
sent by Post Office Order. Catalogue of Keyless Watches
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"A PERFECT DRINK"
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JOHN ROBERTSON AND
AND A GREAT TOWER-STREET

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CORN FLOUR.
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BOILED WITH MILK FOR INVALIDS.
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P O R O U S
P L A S T E R S.
INVALUABLE IN ALL CASES OF
LUMBAGO, SCIATICA,
RHEUMATISM,
AND ALSO
PAINS, RHEUMS,
AND
STRAINS
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
Rev. MARK GUY PEARSE says:—"They are a
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Do not be deceived by the
INEFFECTUAL AND UNRELIABLE IMITATIONS.
Ask for name and initials
ALLCOCK'S.

EIGHTY-FIVE PER CENT. of the Bank's Assets

[illegible][illegible]

**WORK AT HIGH
PRESSURE.**

[illegible][illegible]

100

OF THIEVES IN THE ISLE OF MAN.
The criminal court was held at Douglas on Monday when several thieves were sentenced to imprisonment. John James Leighton and William, against whom there were previous convictions, were charged with breaking into a manufactory at Douglas. The prisoners were caught by a postman. Leighton was sentenced to fifteen months' hard labour, and William to six months. Henry was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for housebreaking and attempted robbery. Thomas William Corlett was sentenced to six months' hard labour for shop robbery, and Louis Kelly, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment for a similar offence. Buck was sent to prison for five months with hard labour, for shop robbery; Ward Bell was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for an offence, having been previously convicted afterwards sent to a reformatory years. All the prisoners pleaded guilty.

PRIVILEGE AT SHEFFIELD.
The Church of St. Jude's, Moorfields, Sheffield, was broken into early last Sunday by a party of thieves, who entered the edifice, and were at last successful, upon the vestry door by using a jemmy. They failed to find the money, but drank three bottles of mineral water while in the vestry, and sent other full bottles away with them.

PROSECUTION OF A TRADES UNIONIST.
The Central Criminal Court, Thomas was a labourer, was indicted for writing and publishing a defamatory libel against the secretary of the "Knights of the Navy's," Bricklayers' and General Carpenters' Union. The defendant pleaded guilty, and that the libel was true and intended for the public benefit.—Mr. W. M. Thompson prosecuted, and in opening the case he stated that the union in question numbered between 15,000 and 20,000 members, and had branches in all parts of the country. The defendant was formerly a member of the union, and he entered into a contest with the secretary for the position, but was defeated on the voting by ten to one. At that time the defendant had exhibited signs of constant persecution of the union by its leading officials, and especially the secretary. The libel complained of was contained in a letter in which the defendant charged that the secretary had embezzled a sum of £15, and had endeavoured to allow him to inspect the accounts of the union.—The Recorder intimated to the defendant that he pleaded guilty to one of the cases read upon him.—The defendant said he had no witnesses, and proposed to put in certain receipts and balances.—The Recorder said he must prove to make them evidence. He was entitled to call the witnesses who were present for the purpose if he desired to do so.—The defendant said he used to have a balance-sheet of the monies belonging to the union, and he intended to refund them, which he did, and intended to assert that there were discrepancies in the balance-sheet which justified the charge he had made.—The auditor of accounts was called to explain them, and he did so, contending that there was no discrepancy. The apparent discrepancy between the amount of money recovered from the balance-sheet and the sum specified in the receipts was made up by certain small charges, for which a receipt was produced to the auditor.—The recorder, in summing up the case to the jury, said that he had been satisfied in his own mind that the defendant's next. He wished the explanation of the accounts and transactions of these unions were as satisfactory as given of the accounts in this case.—The Recorder found the prisoner guilty of the libel, but that no justification had been proved.—Mr. Thompson said the defendant had given evidence to the contrary, and that he was in London repeating the substance of the same to various meetings of working men, and as expelled from the union after all the charges had been consulted, immediately which he began to repeat the slanderous statements. He had been given opportunity of withdrawing from the union, but he remained in them, and the union had consequently been compelled to institute this action.—The recorder intimated that he would postpone sentence until next week, to give the defendant an opportunity of considering his position, whereupon the defendant said he wished now, in face of the evidence, to withdraw from the union, and he made the statements, and his apology for prosecuting for the annoyance to which he had subjected him.—In these circumstances the recorder ordered him to find one in £25, and to be bound himself in to come up for judgment if called upon.

EMBEZZLEMENT BY A LABOUR LOAN SOCIETY'S SECRETARY.
The Westminster Police Court, Alexander James Gray, 35, of Broomwood-road, Brompton Common, for nine years secretary of the Surprise Friends of Labour Loan Society, which has a large membership in London and the provinces, was charged before Mr. Sheil, with embezzling sums of £2,336 and upwards, received by the society on account of the society.—Mr. Dutton, for the prosecution, said the prisoner had for nine years been secretary of this society, which had about 800 members, the majority of whom were thrifty and hard-working tradesmen. He asked the society's chief officers he reviewed a defalcation of considerably £2,000, and that it had been going on for years. The defendant was a clever bookkeeper, and all that was known at the time was that the defalcation had been in the society's private account, and not in the society's public account. The frauds began going on undetected since 1888, but the last meeting of the society a new set of some business capabilities was appointed.—Mr. Sheil expressed astonishment in a society which had the large turn-over that had such a total ignorance of its own affairs. He said he did not know whether there was no security required from the position of the defendant, who had such money passing through their hands. Mr. Dutton said the extraordinary part of the affair was that the prisoner ought never to have retained any money. There was no credit from Mr. Sheil, in a curious way, if it did business. No wonder was these societies breaking and misery visited on the unfortunate who put their money in them.—Joseph Howard, harnessed driver, one of the trustees of the society, gave evidence as to the procedure adopted when money was received and lent. On the 10th of the previous year he had been asked on a balance-sheet of £2,336, remarking, "That was the fact of the case, gentlemen." He did not say how he had got rid of the money, but after some show of grief, and in pressed to disclose the method of the embezzlement, he added, "It has all been in a quiet and collected way. He was asked if the society had signed the balance-sheet as a matter of course, that he had never altered a figure. In reply to this was met with the phrase, "Gentlemen, you may puzzle your brains as you like, but you will never detect me." Subsequently he suggested some sort of settlement, which were not entered.—Gray was remanded in custody.

PIPER PAN.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

A kindly gentleman in the Midland having ventures to foreclose the need of a vehicle, which could be obtained, the cattle being driven into a slaughter yard, and a Midlander of harder stuff takes up cudgels for the drovers. To his way of thinking they are always most kind and considerate. They sometimes use force, he said, but that cannot be avoided; besides, a sufferer more or less, does not much mind to animals which are just going to shambles. There might be something in it if the poor brutes were aware of their pending fate; but fancy that a condemned animal thinks that the human world is

THE ACTOR.

"Uncle Mike" has not proved strong enough by itself to draw the town, and Monday Mr. Terry supplemented it with "The Hardwarden," offering himself to the public "in two parts." The combination should do what the single attraction should not effect. "Uncle Mike's" only important fault is that the story is not clearly evolved. The acting is excellent, but the action is not readily followed. If only our dramatists would recognize that simplicity, or a

OLD IZAAK.

The fact may not be generally known that anglers frequently carry a can of cold tea and their fishing expeditions, and find it a refreshing beverage. The majority of anglers prefer a more exhilarating liquid, and now appears that the Angling Society cannot well dispense with it. As their delegate remarked at the Anglers' Association, without an occasional drop of "old six," they have consequently no "honest anglers," changed their name to the "Copenhagen," and are henceforth to be known as the "Copenhagen," meeting at the Copenhagen, York-road, King's Cross, N.

A splendid take of jack by Mr. Syd Barcham is reported from the upper Tana the largest of which, a beautiful specimen scaling over 18lb, was shown at Hancock's Fleet-street, early in the week. I understand it was taken live baiting, with snap tace and altogether a dozen were caught, all smaller ones of 3lb. or so being returned to the water. The eighteen pounder is, of course, being set up.

If the year now closing has not been one of the best in an angling sense, it is satisfactory to know that it leaves a fairly good one behind. Anglers have certainly multiplied and possibly increased in skill, but, thanks to preservation, the fish have multiplied still greater ratio. I can only hope 1933 will bring good fortune to my brother of the angle, and heartily echo the wish dear old Walton, that the east wind never blow when they go to fishing. **A MERRY Christmas to them all!**

The new Thames byelaws are at last issued. Trailing is to be abolished, and important questions as to bait are dealt with satisfactorily. The takeable standard adopted is: perch, 15in.; perch, 8in.; chub, 10in.; roach, 7in.; dace, 6in.; carpel, 16in.; trout, 1 lb.; bream, 10in.; barbel, 10in.; tench, 8in.; minnow, 6in.; all extreme length. The close time is to be for all except trout, from March 1 to June 15, and for trout from Sept. 1 to Dec. 1, inclusive, and two rods only in any

GENERAL CHATTER. M.

gladdened by the rich relation's benevolent employer and employee forget ranking differences; let peace and good reign on earth! Act on these lines, O reader, and your Christmas cannot fail to prosper, whether your table groans with heap-up luxuries or is sparsely spread with humble fare. For the best sort of happiness comes not from within but from without. There is no pleasure on earth so keen as that of giving pleasure to others. It is always a smaller for a larger.

There is a gentleman on the Stock Exchange who change whom we will name Mr. Badchaps, although that is not his real patronymic. When the late "missing word" gambled with it at its zenith, a young and idle operator of "Change started a comrade of his name the "missing word" Badchaps is a —; it is a — it ran. Now this gentleman is not held in much esteem; rumour credits him with many shady feats. Consequently the "missing word" took all manner of complimentary forms; "har," "cheat," "swindler," "ruffian," "thief," "scoundrel" like. But not one hit the mark, the seal of an ungrudging word proved to be "gentleman."

There are some parts of England where laudanum drinking takes quite a prominent place among Christmas potations. Of course only those addicted to the practice celebrate the festive season in that way, but these unhappy creatures consume an additional quantity in honour of the occasion. I am assured by a very bad case that any one who has once experienced the ecstatic bliss resulting from laudanum intoxication will never again have much relish for fuddling with stimulants. "That is a vulgar joy at best," she remarks as her trembling hand poured out another dose of the poison.

He was a young hand at literature, and told him that I considered his idea rather happy. It was to write a thrilling tale entitled "The Burglar's Christmas, told by his Pal" with a duchess introduced as the mistress of the hero. At the same time I warned him that the reading public insist on realism, and that it would involve either the burglar or the duchess for his inner consciousness. Would that I had given that caution! It influenced my happy young friend to attempt a burglary at a ducal mansion, and being caught in the act he would now be in prison had not his ordinary intelligence suggested the belief that he was insane. So he will pass this Christmas at a lunatic asylum.

MADAME.

The tea gown is always greatly to be desired at this time of year and is to be met with in the most luxurious stuffs as well as in the simplest of fabrics. Effective dresses of this kind may be fashioned of nun's veiling, crepon, and one of the many charming wool materials, such as cashmere foule. Now tea-gown is a boon to stout people; the flowing lines upon which it is built give a softened and graceful effect to the figure. At the same time it can be becomingly worn by the slenderest. Another word in its favor is that it can be easily made at home from a pattern, if only a little careflessness is exercised in the cutting out and putting together of the different parts.

A young friend of mine who always strives to be well dressed in a variety of styles has lately made herself the prettiest of pretty tea-gowns in rose-coloured crepe, a very inexpensive material. The front of the gown was quite straight with darts; it was finely gathered to the neckband, the waist gathers being drawn in a band of black velvet ribbon, the band cut from the side seams and fastening in front with a rosette. The back of the gown was Princess shape; it rested a little on the ground; a square of wide black lace was in two three-corner pieces, each laid out gracefully draped at the waist, the two ends meeting in the centre of the back and fastened at the waist with a rosette black velvet ribbon. The sleeves were in two full puffs of crepon gathered into cuffs covered with black lace; a thick band of black lace went round the neck.

Capes in black, fawn, cast, and dark blue cloth are exceedingly popular just now. One of the fav ourite shapes is a three-quarter cape with a deep frill standing out over the shoulders. The frill, collar and frill are edged with narrow fur. Another good shape of cape is a three-quarter length skirt slightly shaped on the shoulders, and finished at the back with a pointed hood, lined with silk. This cape looks v ery well in a dark serge cloth, lined with dark flannel, or quilted silk. If flannel lining is used the hood should be lined with silk to match the leading colour in the cloth.

A few hints as to the remodelling of a last year's trained gown into the present fashionable one may be useful to some of my readers. A thrifty friend has successfully altered a blue diamond serge made just when the narrow train for trained gowns was at its height. Its original form the gown had the regular train with tight-fitting bodice and a long skirt at the side, the back and front of the bodice being perfectly plain. The first alteration was in cutting off the train and rearranging the skirt into the round, shorter shape now in vogue. Seven rows of coarse black braid in graduated widths were pushed round the foot, the broadest, about three inches wide, at the base. They were placed a little apart, the top row being very narrow.

The bodies were completely altered by cutting the lower part into a deep corset shape with narrow straps over the shoulders. The corset reached as far as the bust, and was braided from the waist upwards with braid to match the skirt. This bodies was worn over a full gathered blouse with loose sleeves and high round neck-band. For morning wear the blouse was of flannel. In the afternoon the corset bodies looked charming over a blouse of soft crimson silk, with a folded band of black silk round the waist.

A fashionable way of dressing the hair is arranging a huge bun-shaped chignon a little above the nape of the neck. As to the becomingness of this style there is difference of opinion, but that it is fashionable there is no doubt. It has the merit of being easy to arrange, and makes a good show with short and moderately thick hair. Tie the back of the hair about two inches above the nape of the neck. Divide it into two parts. Roll each part outwards and pin firmly to the head, then join the two rolls with invisible hair pins. This will produce the correct bun-like form so fashionable now.

MR. WHEELER.

No section of the community has more reason than the wheeling world to regret that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. It cuts off one of the few free days for country excursions, and gives absolutely nothing in return. Could it not be arranged that whenever this coincidence happens, the Monday shall be considered as a day for special purposes, the Tuesday being set aside for Bank holidays? That would not cause any more inconvenience to business than when Christmas Day falls on a Monday.

Remember, ye kind uncles and aunts & friends of families, that there is no Christmas gift which affords greater satisfaction to the British boy than a juvenile safe or tricycle. Too late to offer that advice say? My dear sir or madam, it is now too late to bestow pleasure on the young. You may take my word for it that the gift will be every bit as much appreciated on Christmas Day as it would have been on Christmas Day. So, pocket your cheque book & proceed to the Viaduct with a wholesome resolve that you will not "spoil the ship at her port of tar."

It is high time for cycling to develop ghostly side, so as to be in a position to produce seasonable yarns at Christmas! The phantom wheeler-in should not hesitate any longer on the order of his coming, but come at once. He need not be of the ghastly kind; that would not be true to nature. Nor would a white-faced, ghastly-looking fellow, in a black, impenetrable drapery of safety, excite anything but derision. We require a nice comfortable ghost, with penchant for sampling wayside refreshment, and a beaming smile for all pedestrians, especially those of the feminine persuasion. I think I know of a few who would make excellent ghosts of a shuttle if they could be persuaded to thrust off their mortal coils.

The C. T. C. has done right road service compelling the North-Eastern Railway management to recognize that a cycle is a "carriage" within the meaning of the Act, and therefore entitled to have gates opened at level crossings like other vehicles. Preaching on this text, *When* warns all railway companies to take it to that level crossings cause only a minimum of public inconvenience. The only reliance of an uneducated age, and only allowed to exist on sufferance. For *When* should be inclined to pay Forment very heartily on the back did it their abolition within a given period. The on the South-Western line between Bath Common and Richmond are an unmitigated nuisance, not only to cyclists but to vehicular traffic. Other cycling papers m

That excellent journal, *The North American Review*, has just published a review of *Wheeler* in making a most successful feature of its pictorial embellishments. A few recent cuts had genuine humour about them, while the bold free drawing left nothing to be desired. We shall soon quote a school of cycling art; it already includes several admirable delineators of roughs and smooths of wheeling. The drawing is almost always good, but in some cases they are heavily handicapped by ineffective engraving.

Very glad am I in seeing that the *Cyclist* is with me in predicting an overthrow against pacemaking as an aid to smashing. It is really too absurd to credit to riders for accomplishing feats that sort when all the world knows that success is mainly due to the co-operative work of their wheelmen. I feel certain that a ridiculous system cannot endure very much longer. All but a select few laugh at it, and its defenders must eventually admit that

Not often have I spent a pleasanter
time than at the annual dinner of the
Middlesex. It goes without the saying
the concomitants of the spread were ex-
traordinary. Those who know the gallant bo-
bous will not need to be told that they are
the best hosts in the world. Idle tongues
chattered about supposed dissensions

CRUEL FRAUDS ON THE POOR
At the Thames Police Court, the proprietor of the Steam Ship public house, Blackwall, asked Mr. Mead to grant a warrant for the apprehension of a man who had absconded with the secretary to a Self-Help Loan Society, after defrauding the members of some £50 or £60. The applicant added that he had acted as treasurer to the society, and in the original course the members should that evening have each received a pound. But owing to the frauds on the defalcations, they would have had hardly anything. The secretary in question had obtained £6 13s. 6d. in the name of a man who was then in court. The secretary had since absconded.—Mr. Mead, in granting the warrant, said that the poor took as much as they would not have anything to do with such societies, but pay the money into the Post Office Savings Bank, then they would not be robbed. Many similar cases occur at this season of the year.

A BOY'S TRIBUTE TO DICKENS
A little fellow, apparently about 10 years of age, was recently seen to enter Westminster Abbey shortly before evening prayers. Gait straight up, with a directness that showed complete knowledge of the position by custom, he bowed reverently over the grave of Charles Dickens. Then looking around in evident doubt as to whether his action might give offence to the authorities, he produced a tiny bunch of violets, with an envelope attached, and kneeling down, placed his tribute tenderly upon the grave. The attendants, attracted and affected affectionately round the spot for a few moments, and glancing round to see that his tribute remained undisturbed, went on a happy, satisfied look and took his place in the service. Curiosity led a bystander to examine the childish offering, and this was what he found written in ball-point ink on the envelope: "I have dedicated to the universal violets." For it was good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its Mighty Founder was a child Himself.—Dickens's "Christmas Carol." *Register*, Christmas, 1892.

**THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY
PICKPOCKETS.**

At the London County Session, John Logie, 58, dealer, and Annie Warren, 40, servant, were charged with the theft of a purse and a watch valued at 12s. from the person of Mrs. M. St. Aubyn prosecutor, 11, Hill, Mr. St. Aubyn prosecutor. Mr. Purcell defended.—On Oct. 30 the prisoners were seen to follow the prosecutor and the male prisoner to put his hands in the folds of her dress when in the street, and near to the organ at Westminster Abbey. The girl was crying and the man was laughing and laughing. A Scottish lawyer at the time thought there was not sufficient evidence to justify an arrest. On Nov. 6 prisoner and the girl were again seen in the Abbey, and also on Nov. 10, when, in consequence of an attempt to pick the pocket of a lady, they were both taken into custody.—The jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Peter Edlin declined to give evidence, but when the male prisoner said that verdict was entered, and told the jury to consider whether the male prisoner was guilty of it. After to pick the prosecutor's pocket. After some discussion they returned a verdict of guilty on this count.—Warren Cook proved eleven previous convictions against the male prisoner, and the girl twice under a similar criminal sentence. Sir F. H. Russell sentenced Logie to three months imprisonment, with hard labour, and the girl, who was discharged, and who was said to have acted as servant to the prisoner, was handed over to the care of her mother.

At a meeting of the board of the Suez Canal Company, M. Guichard, Senator, was pointed to replace M. Ferdinand de Lesseps as chairman.

**THE IRRISTUM
FEMALE MEDICINE**

THE EARNEST APPREHENSION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND SOLICITED TESTIMONIALS RESPECTING THE VALUE OF THIS MEDICINE, THEY SPEAK IN ELABORATE AND ENTHUSIASTIC LANGUAGE AS TO THE MARVELOUS AND INCREDIBLE EFFECTS OF THIS PREPARATION.

Mrs. W., of Seattle, writes:—"To poor folks like ourselves, this medicine is a life-saver. I have used it for years, and its worth twenty times its price. I have used it for all the ailments of the family, and as the one strong bottle did me more good than all the other medicines I had taken before for the previous twelve years."

A GUARANTEE—SWORN ON OATH

EVERY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONIES
(just received) ARE SWORN ON OATH before
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"Dear Madam,—I feel it my duty to write and
know your medicine has greatly benefited me. I feel
express my thankfulness to you. **THIS IS MY FIRST**
TIME YOUR MEDICINE HAS RELIEVED ME.—Thanking
most truly for all your attention and kindness.

Mrs A.

"Dear Madame,—I am most pleased to tell you that I received the second bottle everything was as desired. Thanking you again and again. —"

"Grantham, Lincoln

"Mrs

"Westernham. —"

"Dear Madame,—Your first bottle was quite successful. I had tried over a dozen others without the slightest success. Lovingly yours, —"

"Miss

"Leinster Gardens

"My dear Madame,—I wired you yesterday regarding medicine. I now write to say it saved my infant. I publish this if you like. You deserve it, but not the number. —"

"Mrs

"Number one. Sincerely yours, —"

"Dr

"Madame, - I write to let you know that I found my own case, - your medicine is worth £100 pounds a box. I write this as the opinion of one woman, and I am sure it is a genuine remedy to her use."

Yours, &c., Mrs. M.

One bottle of this mixture is sufficient for any case. It will be sent you on return post, secured from observation, for 6s. 6d. Strongest & most immediate relief, by

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Notice Page

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THE IRRISTUM

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